



Students learn what permitting and equipment might be needed to remove invasive tamarisk.

Award Amount
\$200,000

Watershed
Arroyo Pasajero Watershed

County
Fresno and Kings Counties

CALFED Region
San Joaquin Valley Region

Legislative Districts
US Congress: 20
State Assembly: 30
State Senate: 16

Purpose

Develop ranch plans and implement best management practices (BMPs) to improve conditions in the Arroyo Pasajero Watershed

Project Goals

- Provide assistance to landowners in southwestern Fresno and Kings Counties for the development and implementation of farm and ranch plans.
- Decrease grazing impacts on the watershed.
- Reduce erosion through implementation of BMPs, including protecting stream channels and banks.
- Reduce flooding that enters the California Aqueduct and lowers water quality and threatens the integrity of the aqueduct.

Benefits to the CALFED Program

The Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan states that stressors to ecological processes, habitats, and species in the West San Joaquin Basin include livestock grazing, nonnative species, and agricultural practices. Through the implementation of BMPs, this project aims to address these stressors. Individually tailored ranch plans include a description of BMPs such as removal of invasive plant species, improvement of grazing patterns to decrease erosion and improve water quality, implementation of measures to control agriculture runoff, and stabilization of streambanks. Implementation of this project helps achieve the Ecosystem Restoration Program goals for the West San Joaquin Basin. The project will also reduce flooding, which impairs water quality and threatens the integrity of the California Aqueduct.

Project Overview

The 529-square-mile Arroyo Pasajero watershed is located in central San Joaquin Valley. The watershed is substantially impaired as a result of natural geologic erosion, which is accelerated by the decline of grassland and riparian vegetation. The area is prone to flooding, which moves massive amounts of sediment containing naturally occurring asbestos, salts, and other constituents to the valley floor. Floodwaters may enter the California Aqueduct, impairing water quality and threatening the integrity of the aqueduct. As a result, landowners in the watershed have formed the Stewards of the Arroyo Pasajero Coordinated Management Program (CRMP), whose goal is to reduce flooding and sedimentation through the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) in the Arroyo Pasajero Watershed.

The CRMP is working with farmers and ranchers to implement BMPs through individual ranch plans in an effort to address the flooding and sedimentation problems in the watershed. This project focuses on “low-infrastructure” solutions related primarily to drainage control, rangeland management, and cropland modifications that can be consistently implemented on a watershed-wide basis and uphold the traditional land usage. The process for obtaining a farm or ranch plan consists of a landowner submitting an application to the CRMP to have a plan designed. All infrastructure construction is done according to Natural Resource Conservation Service specifications and is administered through the Westside Resources Conservation District.

The implementation of BMPs through individual ranch plans will result in improved ranch and farm operations, including better distribution of cattle. Improved ranch operations will decrease grazing impacts and better stream channel and bank protection, which will reduce erosion and flooding.



Joe DiTomaso of UC Davis leads a session on weed identification and management.

Contact Information

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